

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has favoured UN intervention from the outset, having contributed generously to such intervention by supplying over 500 soldiers during the peak period. It intends to replace the communications unit with a logistical support unit. Getting the refugees to return is our greatest priority. To achieve this, we must work at both the external and internal levels. In the refugee camps, the militia and former soldiers are intimidating those who wish to leave and are threatening NGOs distributing humanitarian aid. Given the scope of the problem, the UN must coordinate the efforts of the international community, in cooperation with the leaders of neighbouring countries. Canada named a special emissary in July to promote dialogue between the parties.

Internally, the Rwandan government must take concrete measures to reassure the refugees and give them access to their property. The government has no means whatsoever of functioning; Canada is prepared to assist it. Thanks in large part to our intervention, the problem of arrears owed to the World Bank has been solved, thereby opening the way for other sources of financing to assist the Rwandan government with its operating budget. In addition to providing nearly \$25 million in humanitarian aid, Canada is prepared to place a counterpart fund of \$7 million at the disposal of the government, plus \$5 million for arrears and a social development fund. Other means of intervention are also being considered, particularly in the area of judicial assistance.

It should also be remembered that last May's special session of the UN Human Rights Commission was a Canadian initiative. The Commission approved the nomination of a Special Rapporteur to investigate human rights violations in Rwanda and requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up a team of human rights monitors et provide human rights technical assistance to the Rwandan government.

At the last session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, Canada sponsored a resolution on the human rights situation in Rwanda. The resolution was adopted without a vote.